

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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GENEVA FOR WISNER

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TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: AFRICA IN THE U.S. PRESS, DECEMBER 7, 1976

1. THE BALTIMORE SUN:

-- REUTERS REPORTS FROM GENEVA THAT THREE AFRICAN NATIONALIST LEADERS HAVE BLAMED SMITH'S FORCES FOR THE DEATHS OF THREE CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES WHO WERE SHOT TO DEATH IN NORTHWEST RHODESIA ON SUNDAY. RHODESIAN MINISTER OF LANDS REJOINED "IF YOU BELIEVE THAT, YOU WILL BELIEVE ANYTHING." THE NATIONALIST LEADERS CLAIM THE MURDERS WERE THE WORK OF THE SELOUS SCOUTS, A WHITE-OFFICERED UNIT MADE UP OF BLACKS WHO "MASQUERADE AS AFRICAN GUERILLAS."

2. WASHINGTON POST:

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-- AT LEAST A DOZEN PERSONS WERE WOUNDED WHEN FIGHTING

BROKE OUT BETWEEN MEMBERS OF TWO TRIBES IN NYANGA TOWNSHIP NEAR CAPE TOWN. THE FIGHTING OCCURRED OVER STUDENTS SUPPORTING A WORK STOPPAGE AND OLDER MEN OF ANOTHER TRIBE WHO WANTED TO GO TO WORK. AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, TWO BLACK LEADERS SAID THEIR FOLLOWERS WERE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLING OF A RETIRED CATHOLIC BISHOP, A PRIEST

AND A NUN ON SUNDAY. THEY BLAMED THE KILLINGS ON RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT AGENTS DISGUISED AS GUERRILLAS.

3. NEW YORK TIMES:

-- JOHN BURNS REPORTS FROM PRETORIA ON THE DIVISIONS WITHIN THE RANKS OF AFRIKANERDOM ITSELF, RANGING FROM TREURNICHT, DEPUTY MINISTER OF BANTU EDUCATION WHO REPRESENTS THE "VERKRAMPTE" OR CONSERVATIVE WING TO THE "VERLIGTE" OR LIBERAL ALLIANCE OF MINISTERS, ACADEMICS, BUSINESSMEN AND JOURNALISTS. AT THEIR HEAD IS WILLEM DE KLERK, EDITOR OF THE JOHANNESBURG PAPER DIE TRANSVALER. SOME MODERATES SURMISE THAT HARDLINERS IN THE GOVERNMENT HAVE CHOSEN TO FOLLOW A CONFRONTATIONIST POLICY TO HEAD OFF A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. THE THEORY IS ADVANCED TO EXPLAIN THE ARREST OF BLACK MODERATES, AMONG OTHER MOVES.

-- A SURVIVOR OF THE RHODESIA AMBUSH IN WHICH THREE MISSIONARIES WERE KILLED DESCRIBES THE INCIDENT IN AN AP STORY. BLACK NATIONALISTS' DENIAL OF RESPONSIBILITY IS ALSO CARRIED BY THE TIMES.

-- IN A FULL PAGE ADVERTISEMENT FOR TV GUIDE MAGAZINE, THERE IS AN ARTICLE BY DICK RUSSELL ON THE EMERGENCE OF AFRICA AS THE CENTER OF INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND THE PROBLEMS THIS POSES FOR TV NEWS COVERAGE. ONE ANSWER IS THE NEED FOR PERMANENT AFRICAN BUREAUS. EACH NETWORK IS REPORTED TO BE TAKING "LONG LOOKS" AT NAIROBI AND JOHANNESBURG. ROBINSON

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